

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2024
6:00 PM**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana 46347 on the 9th day of September at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting their regular monthly meeting.

Council President Tyler Brock called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Councilors Tyler Brock, Tim Gant, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd and Police Chief Michael Miller.

Public Hearing for 2025 Budget-Council President Brock opened the public hearing at 6:01 pm for the 2025 Budget for comment. No comments were made. Hearing closed at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 12th, 2024 regular meeting minutes were submitted to the council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Wittmer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The Accounts Payable Docket from August 13 to September 9, 2024 was presented to the Council for approval. Laurie Tribble added there was a claim to Slam Dunk Hoops on the docket in the amount of \$6781.00. This is to pay for the basketball hoops at Drazer Park when they arrive. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

***Clerk-Treasurer-**Laurie Tribble reported the parking lot will be closed September 17-19 for paving. The vector is still out. Mike Fredrick of Jack Doheny said the cotta transmission needs to be replaced or rebuilt. The company has found a mill wright that is willing to do the repair. They are expecting to have the repair complete the week of the 16th. Thanks to Orville for the concrete repair in front of Town Hall before the Pork Fest. Lastly, the Parks Department need two signatures from the council to close 49 for the Christmas Parade.

***Attorney-**No report.

***Park-** Director Jefferson reported they are collecting donations for the basketball court. The court is expected to be put in around September 23.

***Police Department**-Chief Miller reported he has a new officer, Deputy Hodge, who will attend the academy on January. Deputy Tratabas is in Plainfield the next two weeks attending classes in defensive tactics to become an instructor. Deputy Stroup will be attending school to be the department instructor for active shooter training.

***Plan Commission**- No report.

***Building Inspector**- Orville Jefferson reported Jake Clark at 405 Gordon Terrace has put up a shed that is attached to the side of his home without obtaining a permit. He was ordered to take the shed down, but has failed to do so. He has been issued numerous violation tickets. This item will be turned over to the Attorney for further litigation.

***Storm Water Board**- Harold Salyer reported the board will be working on a drainage issue by the Kouts School where a large amount of water pools when leaving the school parking lot.

***Economic Development Commission**- No report.

***Fire Department**-Tyler Brock reported for the Fire Department. Pork Fest went well and they will have their touch a truck event October 14 from 10-2.

New Business

Approval of OCRA Grant Agreement-Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the OCRA Grant Agreement with Tyler Brock as signatory. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Wessler Engineering Amendment No. 2- Wessler Engineering submitted Amendment No. 2 an Agreement Between the Town of Kouts and Wessler Engineering for Water System Improvements. This amendment provides for additional design phase services for the addition of a UV treatment process to the WTP in the amount of \$44,000 for a new total contract amount of \$669,000.00. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve this amendment with Tyler Brock as signatory and Tim Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-4 Miscellaneous Fees Ordinance-The Miscellaneous Fees Ordinance was presented to the Council. There is an addition to allow the police to charge a \$5.00 fee for completing a Catalytic Converter Form for citizens. There was also a correction to the cost of B & W copies to .10 per page and Color copies remains at .25 per page. Councilor Wittmer motioned to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2024-4 on the first reading. Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Tyler Brock..... Yes
Tim Gant..... Yes
Blake Jefferson..... Yes
Harold Salyer..... Yes

CJ Wittmer.....Yes

Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-4 as written. Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2024-5 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 90, Parks and Recreation §90.05 Permits Section (A) Issuance of Permits (2) for Parks and Recreation Rental Fees-Ordinance 2024-5 was presented to the Council for approval. This ordinance allows for the addition of fees and rental of Pennsy Park. The alcohol fee for Drazer is now \$50, Pennsy Park Rental is \$250, alcohol fee \$100 per day and a \$250 security deposit is required. Councilor Wittmer motioned to suspend the rules and pass Ordinance 2024-5 on the first reading. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following roll call vote:

Tyler Brock.....Yes
Tim Gant..... Yes
Blake Jefferson..... Yes
Harold Salyer..... Yes
CJ Wittmer.....Yes

Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-5 as written. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Any other matters: Councilor Gant stated that at the Commissioners' meeting they announced a Public Safety Tax. Does anyone know what that is exactly? It was suggested someone from Porter County be invited to attend a council meeting to explain how and what this tax is about. There seems to be a lot of confusion regarding how the money will be collected and how it will be distributed.

Adjournment

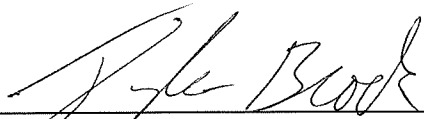
Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and Councilor Gant seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

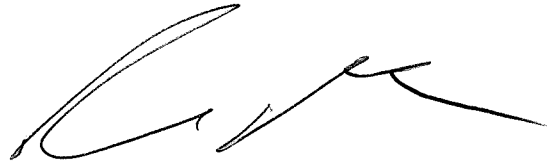


Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer

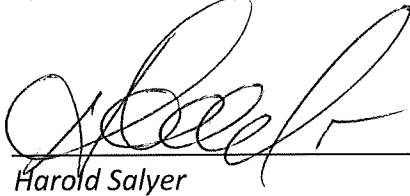
(signatures on page 3)



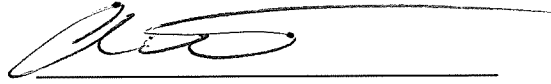
Tyler Brock, President



Blake Jefferson, Vice-President



Harold Salyer



CJ Wittmer



Tim Gant